

Message Text

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PAGE 01 ABU DH 02264 040843Z

13-12

ACTION NEA-10

INFO OCT-01 EB-07 ISO-00 PA-02 AF-06 /026 W

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O R 040817Z NOV 75

FM AMEMBASSY ABU DHABI

TO AMEMBASSY TUNIS IMMEDIATE

AMEMBASSY MOGADISCIO IMMEDIATE

INFO SECSTATE WASHDC 3520

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UNCLAS ABU DHABI 2264

E.O. 11652: NA

TAGS: BEXP BTRA TC

SUBJ: VISIT OF GOV. BLANTON AND TENNESSEE TRADE MISSION

REF: ATHENS 8394

AND ABU DHABI 2243

1. FOR TUNIS: PLEASE PASS FOLLOWING TO THERON RICE, DIDIRECTOR OF SUBJECT MISSION. THANKS TO COMPLETE LACK OF ABILITY ON PART OF LOCAL ORGANIZERS TO ARRANGE COHERENT PROGRAM FOR BUSINESS GROUP, ABU DHABI CHAMBER OF COMMERCE HAS REQUESTED EMBASSY ASSITANCE ON URGENT BASIS. CHAMBER IS GRAPPLING WITH PROBLEM OF HOW TO ACCOMODATE YOU GIVEN ARRIVAL OF FIVE OTHER MISSIONS IN WEEK BEGINNING NOV. 8. PLEASE CONFIRM BY NIACT IMMEDIATE MISSION ARRIVAL

IN DUBAI. CHAMBER MOST ANXIOUS TO KNOW IF YOU INTEND TO VISIT ABU DHABI. IF SO, CHAMBER WILL ORGANIZE RECEPTION ON YOUR BEHALF AND SUGGESTS EVENING OF NOV. 10. PLEASE BEAR IN MIND THAT ABU DHABI IS 120 MILES FROM DUBAI. IF YOU INTEND TO VISIT ABU DHABI FROM DUBAI, YOU MUST FLY VIA GULF AIR OR ORGANIZE TAXI CARAVAN FOR TWO HOURS DRIVE. ROUND TRIP PLANE TICKETS ARE DIRHAMS 167 (DOLLARS 44) PER PERSON. ROUND TRIP TAXI FARE IS DIRHAMS 300 (DOLLARS 75). ABU DHABI CHAMBER HAS ALREADY SENT CIRCULAR TO ITS MEMBERSHIP CONCERNING YOUR ARRIVAL.

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TO PREVENT FURTER EMBARASSMENT TO STATE OF TENNESSEE

AND TO EMBASSY, PLEASE INFORM US OF YOUR PLANS.

2. FOR MOGADISCIO: PLEASE PASS FOLLOWING TO THOMAS BENSON, TRAVELLING WITH GOVERNOR'S PARTY: WHILE WISHING TO ABIDE BY GOVERNOR'S DESIRE TO KEEP OPTIONS OPEN FOR HIS UAE ITINERARY, THIS NO LONGER POSSIBLE. ABU DHABI CHAMBER OF COMMERCE IS WILLING TO HOST RECEPTION FOR GOVERNOR EVENING OF NOV. 8. IN ORDER TO DO SO, THEY WOULD BE FORCED TO CANCEL RECEPTION FOR CANADIAN TRADE MISSION. AS POSSIBLE ALTERNATIVE, AMBASSADOR INVITES GOV. BLANTON AND PARTY TO RECEPTION FOR ADMIRAL BIGLEY AT RESIDENCE EVENING OF NOV. 8. INVITEES TO AMBASSADOR'S RECEPTION INCLUDE MILITARY AND GOVERNMENT FIGURES AND PROMINENT ABU DHABI MERCHANTS. PLEASE ADVISE BY NIACT IMMEDIATE CABLE IF THIS ARRANGEMENT SUITS PURPOSES OF GOV. BLANTON'S VISIT TO UAE. ALSO ADVISE EXACT ETA SO THAT MINISTRY OF FOREIGN AFFAIRS CAN GREET YOU AT AIRPORT.

3. WE WANT TO MAKE IT CLEAR THAT IS IS NOT OUR DESIRE TO INTRUDE IN ARRANGEMENTS BEING MADE BETWEEN GOVERNOR AND UAEG. WE ARE DOING SO ONLY AT URGENT APPEAL OF ABU DHABI AUTHORITIES WHO FEEL THEY MUST DO AT LEAST SOME ADVANCE PLANNING AND MUST HAVE GOVERNOR'S RESPONSE TO THSE PLANS.
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